

Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser

Alexandria Gazette

Wednesday Evening, April 20.

FLYING FISH—I have watched flying fish exceedingly, and have never by seen them fly, or rather glide, over the surface of the sea and from one to two feet above it, rising gently to the water when there was wind, and occasion ally turning to the right or left; without touching the water. I do not say that when there is a breeze the tail of the fish may not touch it, but I think that, with the foam and spray of the breaking water, it would be very difficult to be sure of it, and moreover, if the tail was used the motion would be a jerking one. Mr. Walker speaks of their "flying and falling in the most graceful manner," which, although he is referring to some other species, applies also to the North Atlantic form. Mr. Bennett says that they "spring from the sea to a great elevation." This is probably in reference to their coming on board ship at night, alighted, it is supposed, by the lights. I believe the present fish are kept well and do not move, except, perhaps, as Mr. Whitman's recent observer says, just when they rise from the sea. They are 800 to 1200 feet above the greatest altitude he has seen them fly, and about forty seconds as the longest time out of the water. By what means they move when out of the water is still a mystery. I have never known the flying fish to be pursued by other fish, and have never seen any birds near them; indeed, few birds are ever seen far from the land north of the southern tropic, where flying fish are most abundant. The dolphin is supposed to be their greatest enemy. I had once an opportunity of seeing one opened, in the W. Indies. Its stomach was quite full of oranges and lemons, very young, being no quite ripe.

Opening and Closing of the Mails.

CLOSING.

Washington, D. C., and Northwestern mails 8 a.m., 12 m., and 6 and 8 p.m.

Western mails 4 and 8 to 10 p.m.

Southern mails, via Richmond, Va., 8 a.m. and 4 and 8 and 8 1/2 p.m.

South and Southwestern mails, via Lynchburg, Virginia, west and territory mails, 7 a.m. and 9 1/2 p.m.

Manassas Division 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Alexandria to Round Hill, Va., 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Northern and Western mails, via Washington, D. C., 6 a.m. and 12 m. and 6 and 8 p.m.

Southern mails, via Richmond, Va., 8 a.m. and 4 and 8 and 8 1/2 p.m.

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